

REMARKS

The present Response is submitted in response to the Office Action dated April 5, 2004, where the Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 6-10, 12, 13 and 17-24 pending in the present application. Reconsideration and allowance of pending claims 1-3, 6-10, 12, 13 and 17-24 in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

A. Rejection of Claims 1-3, 6-10, 12, 13 and 17-24 Under 35 USC §103

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 6-10, 12, 13 and 17-24 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 2,922,211 to Boyd ("Boyd '211"), in view of applicant's prior art disclosure, and further in view of USPN 2,486,411 to Huelster ("Huelster '411"). Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Independent claims 1 and 10 are directed to recessed fastener adapter device and system for recessing a fastener on a printed wire board (PWB) comprising a board interface for interfacing the adapter device with the PWB at a fastener hole, wherein the fastener hole is a non-countersunk through-hole, and wherein the board interface interfaces with the PWB at the fastener hole and includes a top surface. The device further includes a fastener head engaging surface for accepting and recessing a fastener head having a top surface, wherein the fastener head engaging surface engages a fastener head and recesses a fastener head, and wherein neither the top surface of the board interface nor the top surface of the fastener head protrudes from the PWB top surface. Independent claim 10 recites similar limitations. As explained in the present application, this arrangement "does not cause interference on the PCB, or causes interferences, the extent of which are less than the interferences that would be

caused by not using the adapter or are acceptable to obtain the benefit of eliminating counter-sink holes" (emphasis added). Page 3, lines 11-14 of the present application. The recessed fastener adapter device and system of claims 1 and 10, therefore, address a number of problems present with known PCB fasteners.

In contrast, Boyd '211 discloses a quick fastener unit for connecting workpieces. Specifically, Boyd '211 discloses a "cowl fastener" (col. 1, ln. 19) including "a grommet 46 for snugly fitting within the workpiece apertures and absorbing shear stresses applied to the fastener." Col. 2, lines 58-60 of Boyd '211. Grommet 46 is illustrated in Fig. 3 of Boyd '211, and is described as having "a flared head portion 48 adapted to seat within a countersunk portion 50 of the workpiece aperture 38" (emphasis added). Col. 2, lines 60-62 of Boyd '211. As acknowledged by the Examiner, neither Boyd '211 nor applicant's prior art disclosure disclose or suggest a fastener hole being a non-countersunk through hole. See page 3 of the Detailed Action.

The Examiner, however, cites Huelster '411, stating that Huelster '411 discloses a fastener hole (6a) being a non-countersunk through hole. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Referring to the disclosure of Huelster '411, a cam and stud-type fastener is generally disclosed. As shown in Figure 1, plate 6 is beveled to form opening 6a for receiving spring retainer 27 and for interfacing with beveled flange 27a of spring retainer 27. Thus, contrary to the Examiner's assertion, the hole defined by plate 6 is a beveled opening, structured as a countersunk hole. Hole 6a is merely the result of a gap formed between spring retainer 27 and the end of plate 6 when spring retainer 27 is seated within the beveled opening of plate 6. See Figure 1 and col.3:62-4:2. In sum, Huelster '411 wholly fails to disclose or suggest a non-countersunk through hole, as

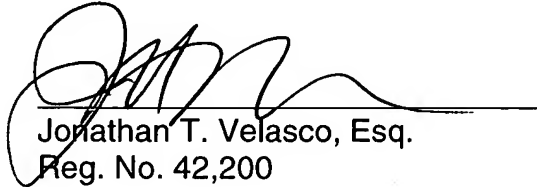
specified by claims 1 and 10, as discussed above. Therefore, the combined references of Boyd '211, applicant's prior art disclosure, and Huelster '411 fail to disclose or suggest the recessed fastener adapter device and system specified by claims 1 and 10. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of independent claim 1, and its corresponding dependent claims 2-3 and 6-9, and independent claim 10, and its corresponding dependent claims 12, 13 and 17-24, has been traversed, and that, therefore, claims 1-3, 6-10, 12, 13 and 17-24 should now be allowed.

B. Conclusion

For all the foregoing reasons, allowance of claims 1-3, 6-10, 12, 13 and 17-24 pending in the present application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted;

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